

December 2, 2009

RE: House Bill 4373 and House Bill 4374

Dear Rep. Warren,

I am writing in support of House Bill 4373 and House Bill 4374.

In 2007 the voting laws were mainly adversely effecting communities with large numbers of student voters such as those found in my city of Ann Arbor. Students are transient and frequently move within our city depending on where they can find housing that fits their economic circumstances and/or personal relationships.

Keeping accurate voter rolls with transient populations such as those found in university and college towns has always been a challenge and a serious expense to Michigan's Secretary of State's office and to election clerks' offices.

Today with Michigan's devastating economic conditions, other groups have also become transient. This include voters who have become displaced due to record home foreclosures, a lack of low income/affordable housing, and a lack of programs aimed at the now under employed or unemployed workers who through no fault of their own are now living in a family member's or friends basement/spare bedroom, sleeping on couches or even in camping trailers, shelters, on church pews, or in their cars until they can find another job or housing they can afford.

In 2008 foreclosure lists were used to disenfranchise voters in certain areas such as Wayne County where registered voters were still living at the address shown on their licenses and IDs. In my area, I reported incidents of registered voters who had lived and voted for years at their present location but had been removed from the voter rolls. No reason had been given.

At the May 8, 2007 Ethics Committee hearing fraud was cited as the excuse as to why a voter's resident address had to match with a license or ID card. Maintaining accurate voter rolls is expensive and has disenfranchised voters. Checking to see if someone had voted twice and prosecuting them for voter fraud is a better solution to a fraud issue. Continuing to impose, excessive financial and man power burdens on election clerks and disenfranchising voters especially during these devastating economic times, have shown to be ineffective and burdensome to voters and to state and local governments.

For the above reasons I urge the Ethics Committee to support House Bill 4373 and House Bill 4374.

Sincerely,

LuAnne Bullington
1801 South Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 769-0949